

**STATISTICAL SUMMARY¹ FOR THE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA
June 2008**

The caseload in Nebraska demonstrates that the loss of the district's fourth judgeship in May 2004 continues to impact the district. The Senate addressed the district's need for a temporary judgeship on December 4, 2007, when it passed S. 1327. This important piece of legislation awaits action in the House of Representatives. On March 13, 2008, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy and Senator Orin Hatch introduced S. 2774, a comprehensive judgeship bill that would establish a fourth judgeship in Nebraska. S. 2774 was reported favorably 15-4 by the Senate Judiciary Committee on May 15, 2008. The following four points provide a statistical snapshot of the District of Nebraska. These points demonstrate the district's need for an additional judgeship.

1. Nebraska ranks near the top of the 94 federal district courts in terms of its workload. [\(See Attachment 1.\)](#) Since 2002, Nebraska's caseload has risen 31% compared to the national average decrease of 4.4%. In terms of total filings per judge, Nebraska ranks thirteenth in the nation. The average federal judge handled 495 cases, while the average Nebraska judge handled 570 cases.
2. Nebraska has the sixth highest per-judge criminal caseload in the country. Nebraska's caseload exceeds those of districts that include the metropolitan areas of Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, and New York City. [\(See Attachment 2.\)](#) In 2007, the average federal judge handled 85 criminal cases, while the average Nebraska federal judge handled 190 criminal cases. The heavy criminal caseload makes it increasingly difficult for the court to resolve civil cases, as evidenced by the court's increase in median time from filing to disposition from 10.4 months in 2002 to 11.3 months in 2007.
3. Since 2002, Nebraska's weighted filings (measuring the difficulty and number of both civil and criminal cases) have risen 11% compared to the national average decrease of 5%. Nebraska ranks twenty-fifth in the nation in terms of its weighted filings.

¹The source for this summary is the Judicial Caseload Profile reports for the 12-month period ending September 30, 2007 (Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts). These statistics are computed on a "per authorized judge" basis. They compare the workload among the district courts by determining the number of authorized judgeships per district court and dividing that number into the total of the category under analysis for the district. The same process is repeated for each district court, and then national averages and other statistics are computed.

4. Nebraska judges work hard. They terminated 715 cases per judge as compared to the average of 468 per judge. Nebraska ranks fourth in the nation for terminations per judge. In trials completed, Nebraska ranks tenth in the nation. The average federal judge completed 20 trials per year, while the average Nebraska judge completed 34 per year. Nebraska ranks seventh in the nation for supervised release violation hearings in criminal cases. The average Nebraska judge handled 83 such violations per judge as compared to 30 for the average federal judge.

U.S. DISTRICT COURT - JUDICIAL CASELOAD PROFILE

		12-MONTH PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30								
NEBRASKA		2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	Numerical Standing		
OVERALL CASELOAD STATISTICS	Filings*	1,710	1,827	1,778	1,922	1,930	1,739	U.S.	Circuit	
	Terminations	2,146	1,984	1,959	1,990	1,713	1,447			
	Pending	1,123	1,455	1,442	1,598	1,713	1,486			
	% Change in Total Filings	Over Last Year		-6.4					69	6
		Over Earlier Years			-3.8	-11.0	-11.4	-1.7	40	6
Number of Judgeships		3	3	3	3	4	4			
Vacant Judgeship Months**		.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	1.1			
ACTIONS PER JUDGESHIP	FILINGS	Total	570	609	593	640	482	435	13	2
		Civil	297	362	340	354	265	261	48	5
		Criminal Felony	190	182	201	243	175	141	6	1
		Supervised Release Hearings**	83	65	52	43	42	33	7	1
	Pending Cases		374	485	481	533	428	372	45	5
	Weighted Filings**		513	600	612	666	481	463	25	2
	Terminations		715	661	653	663	428	362	4	2
	Trials Completed		34	39	37	37	32	21	10	3
MEDIAN TIMES (months)	From Filing to Disposition	Criminal Felony	8.3	10.1	9.0	7.9	7.7	7.6	42	6
		Civil**	11.3	9.6	9.0	8.2	10.1	10.4	79	8
	From Filing to Trial** (Civil Only)		22.0	21.0	20.0	24.0	15.0	22.0	32	3
OTHER	Civil Cases Over 3 Years Old**	Number	20	32	70	20	10	10		
		Percentage	3.1	3.4	7.9	2.2	1.0	1.0	31	5
	Average Number of Felony Defendants Filed Per Case		1.2	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.4		
	Jurors	Avg. Present for Jury Selection	33.32	29.32	33.55	36.43	33.40	35.90		
		Percent Not Selected or Challenged	19.0	8.8	17.8	25.5	20.6	25.9		

2007 CIVIL AND CRIMINAL FELONY FILINGS BY NATURE OF SUIT AND OFFENSE

Type of	TOTAL	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
Civil	891	41	30	230	30	27	27	184	60	25	128	-	109
Criminal*	570	13	249	54	112	77	14	21	5	6	8	2	9

* Filings in the "Overall Caseload Statistics" section include criminal transfers, while filings "By Nature of Offense" do not.

** See "[Explanation of Selected Terms.](#)"

Nature of Suit/Offense Codes

CIVIL CODES

- A** Social Security
- B** Personal Injury/Product Liability
- C** Prisoner Petitions
- D** Forfeitures and Penalties and Tax Suits
- E** Real Property
- F** Labor Suits
- G** Contracts
- H** Torts(other than Personal/Injury/Product Liability)
- I** Copyright, Patent, and Trademark
- J** Civil Rights
- K** Antitrust
- L** All Other Civil

CRIMINAL FELONY CODES

- A** Marijuana
- B** All Other Drugs
- C** Immigration
- D** Firearms and Explosives
- E** Fraud
- F** Violent Offenses
- G** Sex Offenses
- H** Forgery and Counterfeiting
- I** Larceny and Theft
- J** Justice System Offenses
- K** Regulatory Offenses
- L** All Other Criminal Felony Cases

U.S. DISTRICT COURT - JUDICIAL CASELOAD PROFILE

			12-MONTH PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30								
ALL DISTRICT COURTS			2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	Numerical Standing		
OVERALL CASELOAD STATISTICS	Filings*		335,655	335,868	330,721	358,983	328,520	344,546	U.S.	Circuit	
	Terminations		317,277	350,807	347,196	324,532	323,399	323,629			
	Pending		324,673	309,006	323,914	341,785	312,223	312,971			
	% Change in Total Filings	Over Last Year			-1					-	-
		Over Earlier Years				1.5	-6.5	2.2	-2.6	-	-
Number of Judgeships			678	678	678	679	680	665			
Vacant Judgeship Months**			424.7	399.3	309.2	291.4	444.8	793.4			
ACTIONS PER JUDGESHIP	FILINGS	Total	495	495	488	528	483	518	-	-	
		Civil	380	383	374	414	372	413	-	-	
		Criminal Felony	85	84	87	88	87	84	-	-	
		Supervised Release Hearings**	30	28	27	26	24	21	-	-	
	Pending Cases		479	456	478	503	459	471	-	-	
	Weighted Filings**		477	464	489	529	498	504	-	-	
	Terminations		468	517	512	478	476	487	-	-	
	Trials Completed		20	19	19	19	19	19	-	-	
MEDIAN TIMES (months)	From Filing to Disposition	Criminal Felony	7.6	7.6	7.3	6.9	6.7	6.8	-	-	
		Civil**	8.6	8.3	9.5	8.5	9.3	8.7	-	-	
	From Filing to Trial** (Civil Only)		24.6	23.2	22.5	22.6	22.5	21.8	-	-	
OTHER	Civil Cases Over 3 Years Old**	Number	17,446	27,574	39,600	35,965	34,067	34,067			
		Percentage	6.6	11.0	14.9	12.6	13.0	12.8	-	-	
	Average Number of Felony Defendants Filed Per Case		1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4			
	Jurors	Avg. Present for Jury Selection	49.32	49.61	47.36	46.33	47.81	45.54			
		Percent Not Selected or Challenged	37.3	38.1	36.7	36.8	40.0	39.3			

2007 CIVIL AND CRIMINAL FELONY FILINGS BY NATURE OF SUIT AND OFFENSE													
Type of	TOTAL	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
Civil	257507	12974	36469	53945	3794	5180	18674	33939	24890	10783	31756	1038	24065
Criminal*	57172	4120	11560	16593	8212	6854	1987	2446	808	1426	822	769	1575

* Filings in the "Overall Caseload Statistics" section include criminal transfers, while filings "By Nature of Offense" do not.

** See ["Explanation of Selected Terms."](#)

Additional Statistics for the Period 10/01/06 - 09/30/07¹

Types and percentages of criminal felony filings

See [Attachment A](#) for types and percentages of criminal felony filings by offense.

Numerical criminal felony filings standing for other districts

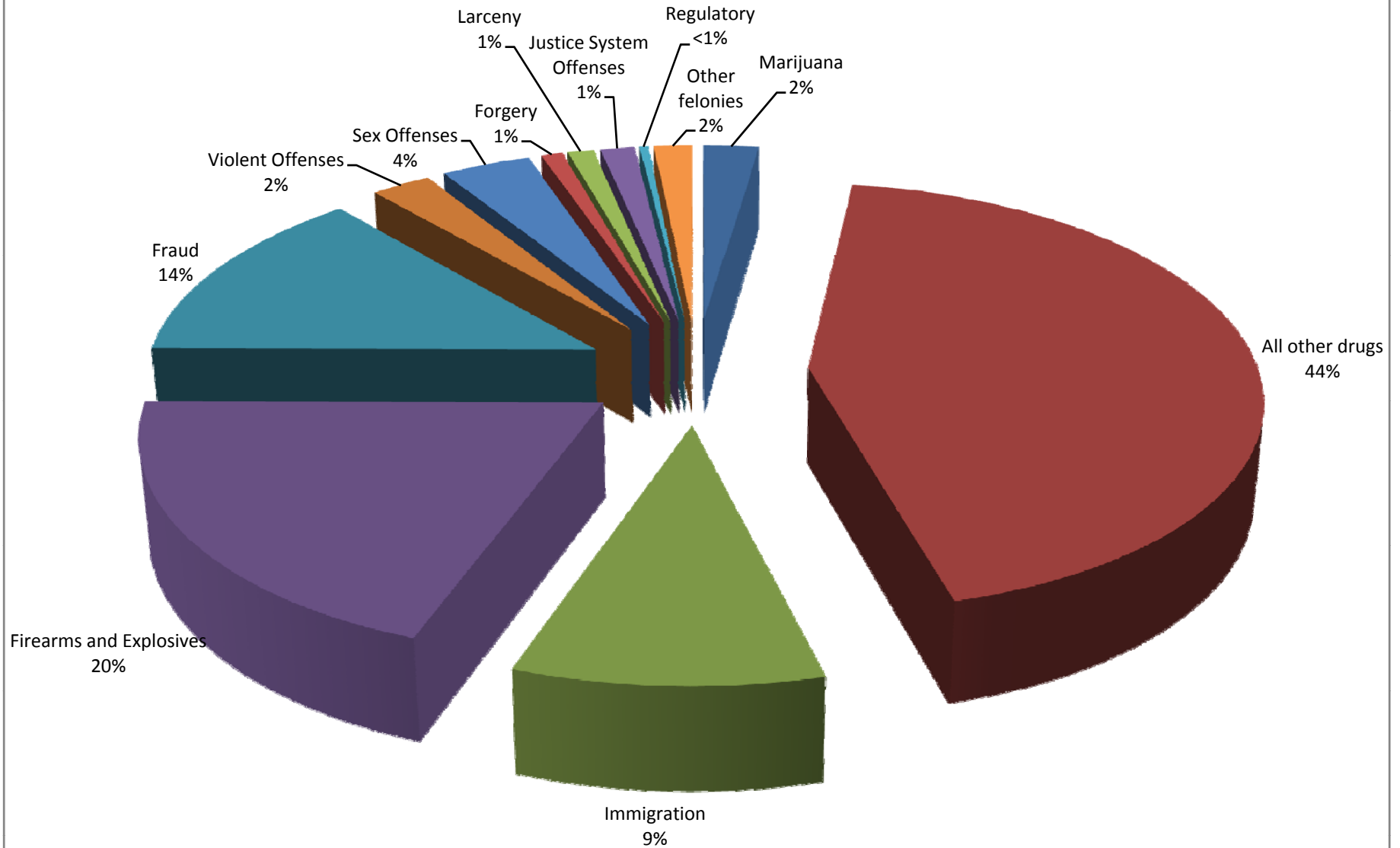
City	District	US Numerical Standing Criminal Felony Filings
Chicago	Illinois - Northern	24
Detroit	Michigan - Eastern	31
Los Angeles	California - Central	47
New York City	New York - Southern	35

Top Ten US numerical standing districts for criminal felony filings

1. Texas - Western
2. New Mexico
3. Texas - Southern
4. Arizona
5. California - Southern
6. Nebraska
7. Iowa - Northern
8. Iowa - Southern
9. Montana
10. South Dakota

¹ The source for these statistics is the Judicial Caseload Profile reports for the 12-month period ending September 30, 2007.

2007 Criminal Felony Filings by Offense



Source: Administrative Office Judicial Caseload Profile Report for the 12-month period ending 09/30/07
Percentage of total filings, rounded to nearest whole number.